

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicant respectfully requests that all future correspondence for this patent application be sent to current counsel of record, Joseph W. Berenato of Berenato, White, & Stavish (successor to Liniak, Berenato & White), 6550 Rock Spring Drive, Suite 240, Bethesda, MD 20817. Power of Attorney documents were filed on August 27, 2004, and upon request will be retransmitted to the Patent Office if necessary. Correction of counsel address is deemed necessary because the December 14, 2005 Office Action was mistakenly mailed by the Patent Office to former counsel. Also, Applicant respectfully requests that the attorney docket number be updated to read "16240.S16." Thank you.

Claims 1-38 remain pending in this application.

Applicant hereby elects Group I, containing claims 1-22 and 32-38, drawn to an astragal, with traverse.

The restriction requirement is predicated on the combination as claimed not requiring "the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the subcombination requires the elongated open channel having an opening extending between the exterior portion and the interior portion and opposed to the side portion." (Office Action, page 2)

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicant has amended independent claim 23 to recite that the elongated open channel has an opening extending between the exterior portion and the interior portion and opposed to the side portion. Claims 24-31 of non-elected Group II depend from claim 23, and thereby incorporate this feature.

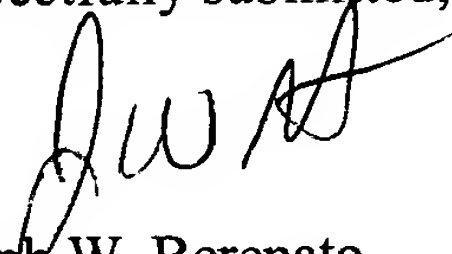
For these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement, and consideration of claims 1-38 on their merits.

Applicant reserves the right to reintroduce unamended claim 23 herein or in a future continuation or divisional patent application.

Should the examiner believe that additional discussion is required, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any required fees to deposit account no. 50-0548.

Dated: 1/13/06

Respectfully submitted,


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